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# Africa Regional Guidelines for Voluntary Local Reviews

**2021-2022 International Mayors Forum**

**Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) and Regional Specificities: Linking Africa's Agenda 2063  
with the 2030 Agenda**

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# Presentation Outline



**Background** SDG Implementation in Africa

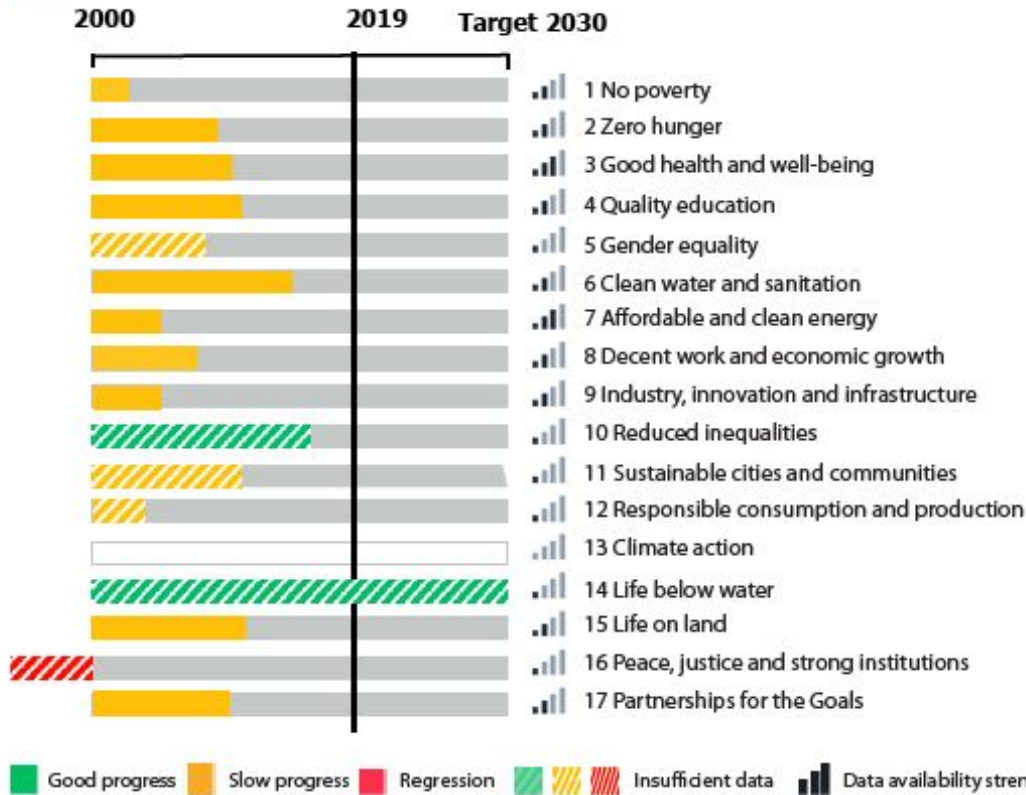
**Why** Africa Guideline and Template

**Guideline** Methodology + Review of Existing Resources

**Africa** VLR : The Process + The Template

**Next** steps

Figure IV: Progress made since 2000 towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa
















## Implementation Progress

Source: Report on progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa (Addis Ababa, ECA, 2020).

# Overall Progress in Implementation

## WHERE IS AFRICA ON TRACK?













### On Track

- |   |       |   |   |        |   |
|---|-------|---|---|--------|---|
|  | 3.1.2 | Births attended by skilled health personnel               |  | 6.b.1  | Policies and procedures for participative water and sanitation management     |
|  | 3.2.1 | Under-five mortality                                      |  | 7.a.1  | International financial flows for research and production of renewable energy |
|  | 3.3.1 | HIV infections  |  | 14.5.1 | Protected marine areas  |
|  | 3.b.1 | Population covered by all vaccines in national programme  |  | 15.a.1 | Development assistance and public expenditure on biodiversity and ecosystems  |
|  | 3.b.2 | Official development assistance to medical research       |  | 15.b.1 | Development assistance and public expenditure on biodiversity and ecosystems  |
|  | 4.b.1 | Official development assistance flows for scholarships    |  | 17.4.1 | Debt service  |
|  | 6.a.1 | Official development assistance for water- and sanitation |   |        |   |



**At the current rate of progress, Africa will most likely achieve 13 SDG indicators by 2030**

### Reverse Trend

- |   |       |   |   |        |   |
|---|-------|---|---|--------|---|
|  | 1.a.2 | Government spending on education and health |  | 9.b.1  | Medium and high tech industry value added |
|  | 3.6.1 | Road traffic deaths                         |  | 15.1.1 | Forest area                               |
|  | 4.5.1 | Inequality indices for education indicators |  | 15.5.1 | Red - List Index                          |
|  | 6.2.1 | Open defecation practice                    |  | 16.2.2 | Detected victims of humantrafficking      |
|  | 7.2.1 | Renewable energy share                      |  | 16.5.2 | Public service bribery(business)          |
|  | 9.2.1 | Manufacturing value added                   |  | 17.1.1 | Tax revenue                               |

## WHERE SHOULD AFRICA REVERSE TREND?



**Africa is going in the wrong direction on 12 SDG indicators**

### GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal

- +/- Increased global partnership commitments but still short of requisite levels
- Long-term risk of reduced ODA and other resources

### GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions

- Disruption to free press and information in some countries
- Increased political tension and heightened risk of conflict

### GOAL 15: Life on Land

- + Reduced pressure on the environment due to decline in consumption

### GOAL 14: Life Below Water

- + Reduced fishing
- Increase in single-use plastic waste

### GOAL 13: Climate Action

- + Decrease in GHG emissions
- Efforts to meet the climate commitments threatened by the economic recession

### GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

- + Enhanced responsible consumption due to locally-sourced production
- Increase in single-use plastics

### GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

- + Short term reduction in pollution improves air quality
- Increase in urban poverty

### GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality

- Disproportionate negative effects on the most poor and vulnerable will exacerbate inequality

### GOAL 1: No Poverty

- 23 million people or more could be pushed into extreme poverty

### GOAL 2: Zero Hunger

- 73 million Africans are forecast to be food insecure

### GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being

- Shortages exacerbating Africa's already weak health systems

### GOAL 4: Quality Education

- 288 million learners are out of school due to closures

### GOAL 5: Gender Equality

- Increased violence against women and girls
- Decline of women's incomes

### GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

- Inadequate basic services hinder the capacity of vulnerable people to follow basic, effective prevention measures against the virus

### GOAL 7: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

- + Reduced energy demand led to decrease in energy costs, which increases access
- Reduces incentives for renewables

### GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

- Economic recession, and the risk of massive unemployment

### GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

- Decline in construction and industrial output
- + Collaboration around scientific innovation





# Africa VLR Production

**9 published**  
**10 in progress**

**2019**

**2020**

**2021-2022**

Busia	Accra	Brazzaville
Kwale	Harare	Cape Town
Marsabit	Ngora District	Brikama
Taita Taveta	Victoria Falls	Kanifing
	Yaoundé	Kuntaur
		Benin *2 localities
—		Zimbabwe *3 localities

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# Why Africa VLR Guidelines

1

Member state request at ARFSD

2

Contextual specificity

3

Regional specificities of Agenda 2063

4

Need to accelerate progress

5

VLR accelerate overall progress

6

Peer Review Mechanism

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# Why Africa VLR Guidelines

## 1

### **Member state request at ARFSD**

- ARFSD Discussions highlighted role of VLRs in accelerating the implementation, follow-up and review of both agendas
  - Potential of VLRs in ensuring ownership, accountability and commitment from all stakeholders
  - Promoting meaningful engagement and the mobilization of resources and capacity
  - Specific request made from African Member States to UNECA to design a template for peer-reviewed VLRs in Africa that is aligned with VNRs
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# Why Africa VLR Guidelines

## 2

### **Contextual specificity**

- Strong rural-urban linkages
  - Highest urban growth rate
  - Most of the continent's urbanisation yet to take place
  - Non-urban localities are producing local reviews
  - Standard guideline and template would enhance coherence
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# Why Africa VLR Guidelines

## 3

### Regional specificities of Agenda 2063

Table 3.1: Aspirations of Agenda 2063

Agenda 2063	
1	A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development
2	An integrated continent, politically united, based on the ideals of pan-Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance
3	An Africa of good governance, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law
4	A peaceful and secure Africa
5	An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics
6	An Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and young people, and caring for children
7	Africa as a strong, united, resilient and influential global player and partner

Source: African Union Commission (2014).

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# Why Africa VLR Guidelines

## 4 **Need to accelerate progress in the region**

- While there has been some progress, the region is not on track to meeting Agenda 2030 nor the aspirations of Agenda 2063
  - Alignment between national and sub-national development frameworks
  - Number of SNGs in region are interested in conducting a local review
  - And many are in some stage of localizing the SDGs to local plans.
  - Offers guidance and best practices to spur further VLR production in the region.
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# Why Africa VLR Guidelines

## 5

### **VLRs accelerate progress overall**

- Few VLRs produced in Africa
  - VLRs are emerging as an inclusive and participatory instrument for collaboration
  - Important tool for communication and spearheading dialogue across government and with local actors, including grassroots institutions and citizens.
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# Why Africa VLR Guidelines

6

## Peer Review Mechanism

- Platform for peer review
  - Learning and sharing
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# Guideline Methodology

- Desk Review
    - existing guidelines
    - handbooks
    - VLRs
  
  - Partnership between UNECA, UN-Habitat and UCLG-Africa
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# Material Covered

SCOPE	VNR	VLR
GLOBAL UN	<a href="#">UN DESA</a> HLPF Handbook for the preparation of VNRs 2018-2021	<a href="#">UCLG UN-HABITAT</a> Guideline for VLRs 2020: Comparative Analysis of Existing VLRs
		<a href="#">UN DESA</a> Global Guiding Elements for VLRs of SDG Implementation
GLOBAL Non-UN		<a href="#">Brookings Institution</a> A VLR Handbook for Cities prepared by Carnegie Mellon University Heinz College
REGIONAL UN		<a href="#">UN ESCAP</a> Asia-Pacific Regional Guidelines on Voluntary Local Reviews 2020
NATIONAL Non-UN		<a href="#">UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL</a> VLRs: A Handbook for UK Cities
SNG		<a href="#">SHIMOKAWA METHOD FOR VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW</a> . 2020 Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

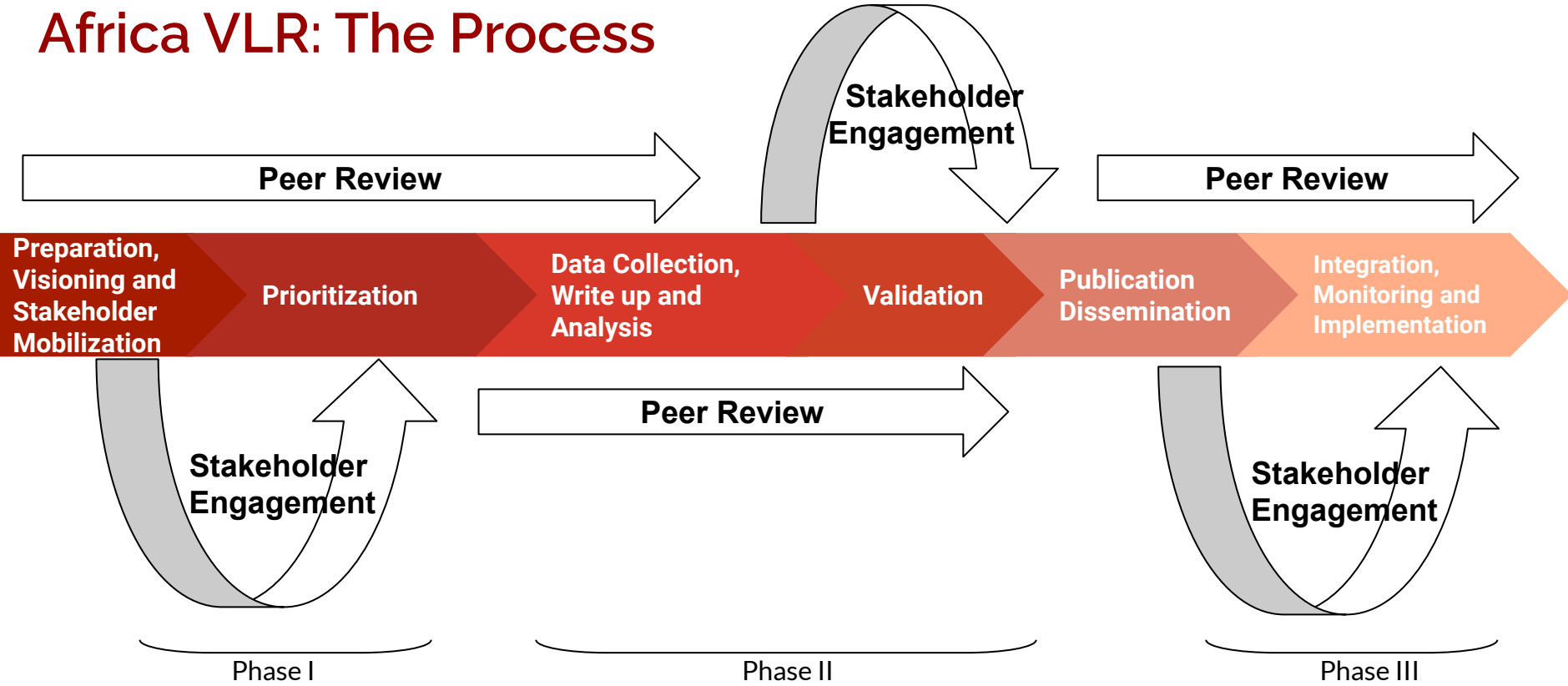
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# Africa VLR: The Template

- Simple
- Easy to follow
- Best practices
- Lessons learned
- Guiding Questions

# Africa VLR: The Process



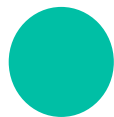
# Africa VLR Guideline - a few Guiding Principles



**Find out where you are and define a way forward.** VLRs are a tool for monitoring and measuring progress, but they are also a mechanism for planning local action. A lack of data should not hold you back and start with what you have.



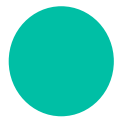
**VLRs are a tool for telling your local story.** VLRs allow local and regional governments to tell their story and present local priorities.



**VLRs represent a process, not just a product.** The VLR is a process and not just a report and the process is engaging, participatory and unbound by a defined start and end dates.



VLRs should promote multi-stakeholder engagement that incorporates principles of human rights, gender equality and leaving no one behind.



VLRs enhance linkages between national and local levels of government.

# Africa VLR: The Template

## Phase I

- Methodological Processes: preparatory work, literature review and visioning
- SDGs and Agenda 2063 - Linking priorities
- Stakeholder engagement planning
- Institutional Model for leading review
- Roadmap and work plan

# Africa VLR: The Template

## Phase II

- Data collection, analysis and write up
- Validation, Publication & dissemination

# Africa VLR: The Template

## Phase III

- Integration, Monitoring, Implementation and Follow-up
- Conclusion

# Next Steps



1. Finalization of Guideline and Template
2. Next Round of VLRs
3. Operationalize Africa Guideline and Template  
online training course, dissemination webinars  
and tailored trainings for specific local  
governments

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**Thank you**

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